

# THE BULLETIN

SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
1026 SUMTER STREET, SUITE 101, COLUMBIA, SC 29201 OR  
P.O. BOX 4490, COLUMBIA, SC 29240

## Agency's Free Mediation Service Results in **OVER \$500,000 in Settlements**

The Human Affairs Commission offers free mediation services during the course of its investigations. Mediation is appropriate when both parties to an investigation – the complaining party and the responding party – agree to meet and allow a neutral third party to resolve a pending matter through compromise.

SCHAC's Chief Mediator is Larry McBride. He, along with a few additional part-time mediators, successfully resolved 75 cases during the last Federal Fiscal Year. These cases mostly arose out of the Employment Department, but certain cases originated in either the Housing Department or Public Accommodations.

The 75 cases that were resolved between October 1, 2016, and September 30, 2017, resulted in a total of \$506,250 in settlements. Congratulations to Larry and the other mediators who quickly and effectively closed cases on behalf of the Agency and the parties involved!



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Tel: 803-737-7800 Toll Free: 800-521-0725 Fax: 803-737-7835 E-mail: [information@schac.sc.gov](mailto:information@schac.sc.gov)

FIND US ON THE WEB AT [WWW.SCHAC.SC.GOV](http://WWW.SCHAC.SC.GOV)



## Welcome to the Commission!



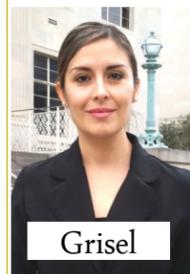
Alyssa

I am a Fair Housing Investigator and, prior to coming to SHAC, I worked in compliance for a local property management company. I am a Columbia native and graduated from USC in 2011 with a BA in Psychology and a minor in Criminal Justice. Despite being a USC grad, I am a huge Clemson fan! When not at work, I enjoy traveling, hiking, yoga, and spending time with my husband (Clint) and two cats (Cosmo and Toonces.)



Aleya

I am a native of Columbia and received my BA in Criminal Justice from the University of South Carolina. During my time at USC, I was a part of 'A Touch of Faith Gospel Choir' and Young Life, an organization that mentors high school students. Prior employment includes, USC and the SC Department of Insurance. I am an avid reader and love watching crime TV shows, trying out new recipes, and doing DIY projects.



Grisel

I was born in El Paso, Texas, and my work experience has been in Dallas, San Antonio, and Austin. As a Case Manager, I worked primarily with the substance abuse and mental health population. I also worked as an Investigator for Adult Protective Service, investigating cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation with elderly and disabled adults. Spending time with my husband, children, and my immediate family is what I enjoy doing during my time away from work.



Martin

I am a native of Columbia, SC, and a graduate of South Carolina State University, graduating with a degree in Criminal Justice. I have been working in the investigative field for over 28 years. My hobby is restoring old classic cars; taking a piece of junk (as others would call it) and turning it into a beautiful Jewel. I also enjoy playing basketball when I can. However, the most important thing is enjoying family, especially during the holidays.



Christina

I have an MBA with an emphasis in International Business. Prior to SCHAC, I worked for the SCDHEC as a Budget Analyst for Health Services' Maternal and Child Health division. During my career in State government, I was responsible for fiscal oversight on approximately 37 grants with a variety of funding streams. I have been responsible for a variety of projects, including providing training for various portions of the SCEIS accounting system and SRM procurement system and maintaining grant/financial records for two agencies. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling, reading, and spending time with friends and family.



Teresa

I have a Masters of Science in Business Management and served on the Palmetto Health Diversity Committee employing 141 diverse companies contributing over \$10 million to the diverse economy. In addition, I have over ten years in the non-profit field. Some of awards and recognition I have received: Exceptional Service Recognition 2011-13, SLED; Non-Profit Leadership Institute 2012, Francis Marion University; and Emerging Leader 2007, Cultural Council of Richland & Lexington Counties.

## Major Accomplishment!



EMPLOYMENT &  
Deputy Cmsr. Koon & Cmsr. Buxton

The South Carolina Human Affairs Commission has accomplished two major achievements within the past four months. The first major accomplishment is that on June 30 the Agency completed its United States Department of Housing and Urban Development contract for the FY 2016-17 to include the completions of 75 cases of which 38 charges were successfully mediated. Also, for the first time in over 30 years, an Administrative Hearing was held at the Commission that involved a Housing Discrimination complaint.

The second major achievement occurring at the Agency was that on September 30, 2017, the contract with the United States Equal Employment



HOUSING

Opportunity was completed for FY 2016-17. With a young staff of investigators and assistance from other commission employees, 1,065 cases were completed and the total monetary value for settlements was \$1, 596,703.

Equal Employment Opportunity Enforcement Investigators, EEO Enforcement Intake Officers, EEO Enforcement Supervisors, the EEO Enforcement Coordinator, and SCHAC Legal Staff with the assistance from Technical Services and Community Relations staff worked together as a team to complete this momentous accomplishment. Each of these employees works very hard to accomplish the Agency mission of preventing and eliminating discrimination in South Carolina, and Commissioner Buxton commends every employee at the Agency for his/her work.



INTAKE

## SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION



Commissioner  
Raymond Buxton, II

Si usted piensa que ha sido discriminado en la vivienda o en el empleo, debe ponerse en contacto con la Comisión de Asuntos Humanos. La Comisión investigará su queja y si hay una violación de la ley, la Comisión puede ayudarle a conseguir soluciones legales a los que usted tiene derecho. Si es necesario, la Comisión puede llevar casos de discriminación a una audiencia o a la corte. No importa su estado legal, la Comisión lo ayuda.

### Board of Commissioners

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### Mission Statement

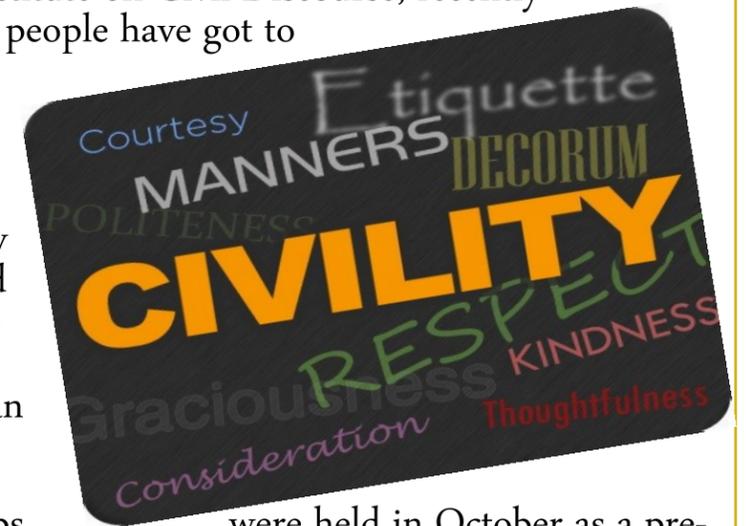
*Our mission is to eliminate and prevent unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations and promote harmony and betterment in the lives of South Carolina's residents.*

### Vision Statement

*The South Carolina Human Affairs Commission's Vision is to be well known with a positive image and a mission that is understood and accepted by the public. SCHAC is a fully resourced, customer-friendly Agency with a diverse, well-trained and efficient team working together effectively in a safe and supportive work environment in fulfillment of the Agency's mission.*

## Workshops on Civility Held at Allen University

At a time when it seems that all civility has been lost and the ability to get along with and understand others is increasingly difficult to do, Allen University facilitated discussions that brought people together and helped with understanding that ideological differences need not result in tragic, rather than civil action. As Carolyn Lukensmeyer, Executive Director of the National Institute on Civil Discourse, recently stated, "We the people have got to take a step of learning to be in contact with people who think differently than we do, and learning how to listen to understand rather than convince."



Three workshops were held in October as a precursor to the formal launch of Allen University's Institute for Civility. The SC Human Affairs Commission is pleased to partner with Allen University's workshops. Commissioner Raymond Buxton II said, "these kinds of workshops will help to ignite positive conversations in our communities."